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MEXICAN NATIONAL SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR CHILD SMUGGLING

TUCSON, Ariz. – Maria Isabel Rubio-Anguiano, 27, of Nogales, Sonora, Mexico, was sentenced here to 15 months in prison by U.S. District Judge David C. Bury. Rubio-Anguiano pleaded guilty to Conspiracy to Transport an Illegal Alien for Profit on August 24, 2005. The case was investigated by Customs and Border Protection Officers in Nogales, Ariz.

On April 19, 2005, Rubio-Anguiano attempted to enter the U.S. from Mexico at the Nogales Port of Entry in Arizona. She was accompanied by a 7-year-old female child later determined to be a Mexican national with no documents allowing her to be in the U.S. Rubio-Anguiano presented a laser visa card to the officer at the port of entry and falsely claimed that the girl was her daughter.

When questioned by authorities in secondary inspection, Rubio-Anguiano admitted that the child was not her daughter. She stated that a woman had contacted her by telephone at her residence and asked her if she was willing to smuggle a female child into the U.S. Rubio-Anguiano agreed and met the woman at a hotel in Mexico where she took possession of the child. She was instructed to take the child to a shopping center in Nogales, Ariz., where she would deliver the child to someone and receive \$150 as payment.

The prosecution was handled by Raquel Arellano, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz. The sentencing occurred on Wednesday, October 26, 2005.

CASE NUMBER: CR-05-0985-TUC-DCB

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